

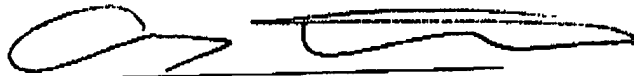
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REMARKS

The Notice of Allowance and the Notice of Allowability were mailed in the above-identified application on December 2, 2003. Applicant's attorney participated in an interview with the Examiner on November 25, 2003, at which the Examiner indicated that Applicant "may file a 312 amendment to re-write claim 14 as an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 as written" in the previous amendment. (Interview Summary, Substance of Interview section). Accordingly, Applicant has re-written claim 14 in independent form to include the recitations of claim 1 prior to the amendment of claim 1 in the Examiner's Amendment enclosed with the Notice of Allowability.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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